# Vew Plays for Autumn



By LAWRENCE REAMER.

N interesting commentator on the theatre has recorded that of all | They must learn them at all events or the trash piled on the New York stage during the grilling drive agers. It is with this conviction that of those deadly August nights only two plays survive. How large a percentage that may be of the inept and pointless dramas that New Yorkers were invited to witness it is probably not profitable to inquire. It is a relief to be rid of these flowers of the early crop by whatever means they may have been eliminated. Probably of the second harvest, there are at present two visible that will hold the New York outside than the fact that Jane Doe stage until Christmas.

Of course, there will be all sorts of excuses for the misjudgment of the managers. But it is the prevailing influenza which will be a boon to most of the entrepreneurs whose achievements had done no more than reach the stage before the diffidence of the public was made discouragingly manifest. Undeniably there is a panicky condition in the public mind which leads the people to keep out of crowds when it is not absolutely necessary that they enter them. But not all the empty theatres are due to a fear of contracting the prevailing epidemic.

Managers always find an explanation for their own mistakes in judgment. It usually takes the passage of time for them to admit that after all the play may not have been worthy of any richer patronage than it received. Explanations all but incomprehensible to the lay mind are seriously advanced as the cause for disappointed hopes.

What the cinema may do for the

business of the "movies." The unusual

There could be no higher praise for

to the spoken stage in uncouth lar

vailing standard in the theatre for

serious consideration. If that is the

stage its cooperation will never

best that the cinema can render to the

Previous plays have gone to show

that the cinema has indeed nothing of

from the spoken drama only the

cheapest and stalest of its devices.

Beyond such mechanical devices as

Trial" and one or two similar effects,

of the photographic theatre that the

stage could with any advantage adopt,

It needs only suc. a borrowing from

the cinema as "I. O. U." to declare

Indeed the continued failure of the

scenario to advance in any of the

ways that its admirers had at one

time expected, has ceased to dis-

hearten and come to be looked upon

as the result of a situation not to be

improved. Well known dramatists

have tried their hand at scenarios to

make but little success, Edward Shel-

don, Paul Potter, Augustus Thomas, these have not met with the same favor in the studios as that accorded

to unknown beginners. The most

esteemed of the scenario writers were

unknown in any other field; they are

usually women and nothing that they

have accomplished in recent years or

in the immediate past would seem to

justify any hope of improvement

Trese writers have won their renown

as the most successful in supplying

the cinema with its needs. So there

can be no hope of any improvemen

in this field under present conditions.

gether baffling to the layman, just as

the details of nearly every business

are often incomprehensible to those

who do not observe it except from the

ommercial activity, it is often possi-

mon sense to their progress and feel

that a little has been learned. But that has never seemed true of the

ble to apply some of the laws of con

outside.

But in other branches of

there is nothing in the whole theor

Arthur Hopkins employed in

that independence.

thinking audience.

valuable.

Intelligibility

When one play failed because it de- all the dulness and vulgarity, the served to, there was the excuse that clumsiness and the ignorance which the leading actor had recently been were sent by a more or less discrimi-associated with a previous failure in nating public into the obscurity they another theatre in no way connected deserved. Managers will not be com-with the scene of his second attempt. pelled to exercise their powers of One manager claimed that he had imagination in explaining just why so carned \$125,000 less than he should many of their dramas met with a rate have done from one of his enterso different from that which they had predicted for them. This will ing role weighed too much to look romantic and amorous. But she had known as the season of the "flu." Un fortunately there are few seasons not gained a pound after he engaged her, against the advice of his assowhich bring forth such a good excuse for the wretchedness of the dramatic ciates, who did not believe her quali- offerings, although the poor and prefied for the role. Another drama of | tentious plays are always with us. French origin falled altogether to repeat here its success in Europe and there was forthcoming at once the spoken drama was shown in "I. O. U.," explanation that had a Frenchwoman gaged to play the leading role moved last week from the stage of the the French drama would have been Belmont Theatre. When Hector Turnreceived with the same success it enbull wrote the scenario for Fanny joyed in Paris. Thus is there ever a Ward its merits were highly proclaimed by those interested in the

The wise Oscar Hammerstein when was interested in the occasional was possible with reasonable attention eduction of a play told the writer to discover what the piece was about of his negotiations with a well known actress. The play, which happened to is not one of their usual merits. he the work of Robert Buchanan, was But this crude incident was transferred certain to be a great success. It was important, however, that certain deguage and submitted to the test of tails be carefully observed.

Oscar Hammerstein said seemed too much below even the pre in reciting the incident, "the most which had to be four feet high and have a white and a black spot on his back. No variation was possible. There had to be two spots and there

"So I decided that such a play was too dangerous for me. If its success was dependent on the spots and measurements of the dog the risk

But on less apparently important details than the spots and the height of the dog have managers placed the responsibility of failures.

Now there will be nothing elec necessary. The influenza will explain

# PLAYS THAT LAST.

Astor, "Keep Her Smiling"; Belasco, "D &d dies"; Bijou, Bleeping Partners"; Booth, "Be Calm, Camilla"; Broadhurst, "La-dies First"; Casino, "Sinbad"; Central, "Forever After"; Cen-Central, "Forever After"; Central, "Freedom"; Cohan, "Head Over Heels"; Cohan & Harris, "Three Faces East"; Comedy, "An Ideal Husband"; Cort, "Fiddlers Three"; Criterion, "Three Wise Fools"; Eltinge, "Under Orders"; Empire, "The Saving Grace"; Forty-eighth Street, "The Big Chance"; Vulton "A The Big Chance"; Fulton, Stitch in Time"; Gaiety, "Lightnin"; Greenwich Village, "The Better 'Ole"; Harris, "The Rid-dle: Woman"; Hudson, "Friend-ly Enemies"; Liberty, "Glorianna"; Longacre, "Nothing But Lies"; Lyric, "The Unknown Purple"; Maxine Elliott's, "Tea for Three"; Miller's, "Perkins"; New Amsterdam, "The Girl Be-hind the Gun"; Playhouse, "Pe-ter's Mother"; Plymouth, "Re-demption"; Republic, "Where demption": Republic, "Where Poppies Bloom"; Selwyn, "Infor-mation, Please"; Shubert, "Somethe managers know their own affairs. the records of this department confine their attention to those matters in plays that happen on the other side of the footlights.

should receive so many hundreds of lollars for her appearance every week while Mary Roe is regarded as worth much less. Of course there is a reason. If there were not the compensa tion for both would be the same. But the managers must be able to distinguish between the talents of the two Last week the general gloom of the theatre managers who would so love to be ordered to shut up shop in order that they might not be forced to pay rent was dispelled long enough for them to laugh at the plight of one of their colleagues. He was suddenly compelled to postpone a new play through the sudden withdrawal of his leading actress. He is known as a most extravagant bidder for the services of artists. The prices he is willing to pay them when they become play had to be postponed because the man, Henry Stanford, who was last actress at the head of its cast deseen in New York in Shakespeare's manded that her salary be doubled be-

difference betweeen Tweedledum and

THE NEW PLAYS.

William A. Brady, Ltd., will prese Peter's Mother," a romantic comedy by Mrs. Henry de la Pasture, from her sonality, thereby precipitating a situabook of the same name, at the Play-house on Tuesday evening, October 29. The cast includes Selene Johnson, Lumsden Hare, Philip Tonge, Gypsy O'Brien, Charles A. Stevenson, Free erick Truesdell, Katharina Stawart. Lillian Brennard, Katharine Lorimer, Herbert Belmore and Walter Howe. "Pete's Mother" has enjoyed success

"Comforts of Ignorance"—Tuesday evening at the Bramhall Playhouse. Sharpe to establish herself on a secure rants of American Society. The agement has selected a well bal

Of course there is nothing more mysterious to the observer from the

known astonish the public. But his Burr, Catherine Cozzins, Nella Bra-

manager, in other words, refused to might be called quite cosmopolitan, make this sudden advance in salary. being Irish, Portuguese, Australian, So it was necessary to postpone the performance and seek another actress for the leading role. New she has been found and the play will soon be seen | 3:15. But the pretty and talented leading woman who expected to play the leading role will not be seen just because the manager who had lifted her from obscurity and gave hor the only opess in New York refused to consent on to double the ante. This was a time -and the first time apparently in his experience—when there was really a

"Peter's Mother"-Tuesday evening

value to give the stage. It has adopted The Bramball Players will open their season at the Bramhall Playhouse on Tuesday evening with "The comedy by Butler Davenport. It deals with the efforts of a modern Becky ting among the comfortable Ignoanced cast as follows: Elsie Rizer,

TABLE OF FIRST NIGHTS.

MONDAY—Forty-eighth Street Theatre: "The Big Chance," by Grant Morris and Willard Mack.

Liberty Theatre: "Glorianna," with Eleanor Painter.

Theatre du Vieux Colombier: "Blanchette," by Eugene Brieux.

TUESDAY—Playhouse: "Peter's Mother," by Mrs. Henry de la

Pasture.
Bramhall Playhouse: "The Comforts of Ignorance," by Butler THURSDAY-Criterion Theatre: "Three Wise Fools," by Austin Booth Theatre: "Be Calm, Camilla," by Clare Kummer.

tre; Walter Vonnegut, Ferris DeRohn, and the author himself, Butler Daven-The characters in this play being Irish, Portuguese, Australian, Hebraic and what are called American 8:15 P. M. and Saturday matinees at

BAYES

IRVING FISHER

LADIES

Rudolf Friml, will be given its initial presentation in New York at the Liberty Theatre Monday night, October 28. Eleanor Painter is the featured member of the cast. Colorful settings by Urban form the background against which will be projected the new musical comedy, staged by Frank Smith-

Glorianna Gray is a society girl who is obliged by financial reverses to earn her own living by giving singing lessons. Under stress of circumstances she assumes another's name and pertion which results in two hours or more of lively, diverting entertainment.

Mr. Cort has surrounded this charming artiste with a thoroughly compe tent company including Joseph Lertora, Josephine Whittell, Alexander Clark, Dorothy South, James Joseph Dunn, Emily Lea, Ralph Whitehead Ursula Elisworth, Curtis Karpe, Marruerite St. Clair, Gilbert Wells and C. Balfour Lloyd, Ergotti twins, Elsie Lamson and Vera Dunn. Novel dancing numbers by a carefully picked beauty chorus in gorgeous gowns are among the features claimed for this production.

"Blanchette"-Monday evening at the Vieux Colombier

The third bill of the repertory com pany of the French Theatre du Vieux Colombier, which will be presented Monday, will afford the first oppor-

ness a performance of Eugene Brieux's "Blanchette," which had its first performance at the Theatre Libre, Paris, February 2, 1902.

The story of "Blanchette" concerns the daughter of French peasafits, who have educated her above her station. "For a season or two no more great Returning to her home to await a stars came to Toronto, but the seed teacher's commission, which she expects, she assumes an air of superioronie. Her return later brings teresting moment of the play.

The cast will be as follows: Blanch Jane Lory; Lucie Galoux, Jeanne part of the squaw. Mme. Jules. Brosangos: Simone Cantonnier, Louis Jouvet: Morillon, Romain Bouquet; Auguste Morillon, York opportunity. Lucien Weber: M. Galoux, Jean Sarment; Une Voiturier, Henry Bart; Le Facteur Marcelle Millet

With the production of "Blanchette" four of the plays of M. Brieux, who is a member of the French Academy. will have beer, produced in this coun "Damaged Goods," and "The Three Daughters of M. Dupont" have preceded the present production, but in English only.

Three Wise Fools"-Thursday erening at the Criterion

Winchell Smith and John L. Golden. next Thursday evening at the Crite- a season in stock at the Colonial Thea

Little Devil," "Drums of Oude" and Dallas at the Belasco Theatre. Imme-The Toymaker of Nuremberg." The diately after that Mr. Belasco asked scenes are laid in Washington Square me to replace Emma Dunn in the title in an aristocratic old house of the role of 'The Governor's Lady.' That days when no long haired men and summer I was leading woman in stock shorn maldens set foot on thresholds at the Royal Alexandria Theatre, hallowed by tradition. Toronto. Then came engagements in In the cast are William Ingersoll, several motion pictures. Coming back

H. Forsman, Hayward Ginn, Levitt Thought.' James, J. Moy Bennett, George Spelvin, Helen Menken and Phyllis Rankin.

and IRENE BORDONI

in in

### TOILING TO BROADWAY.

Catherine Proctor, Leo Ditrichstein's mer the Price Players featured me in a helpful one to the success of Dadeading woman in "The Matinee Hero," stock at the Academy of Music, Richwas inspired to take up a stage career because she saw Mrs. Fiske play in Toronto. She had achieved the reputation of being "the fairy elocutionst" of Toronto. No town hall meeting was mplete without some declamation by little Miss Proctor. Until the eventwas content to win scholarships and gold medals for her histrionic ability without thought for a professional But the arrival of Mrs. Fiske life. upon the local boards proved to be the

turning point in her career. ance," said Miss Proctor, "that after the show I made my way straight to the star's hotel, and with a pounding heart and a throat that was so dry I could hardly speak I informed Mrs. Fiske that I wanted to become a member of her company, She was very kind indeed to the little nervous girl and carefully explained that her cast was completely made up, but that she hoped that some day I would get my

sown in my mind grew, and with the help of my mother, who had always I am glad I accepted it, for indirectly affairs of the home and giving advice packed my grip and set off for New generously upon all subjects. Respect York, and no sooner did I arrive than for her superior knowledge has effects. I made straight for Maude Adams, and when the family are brought to who was then rehearsing in "The "Gloriana"-Monday evening at the the verge or ruin the father rebels Pretty Sister of Jose, for I had made "Next winter was the opening sea-

son of "Peter Pan," and I was engaged never to do it again, that is, not until effe, Suzanne Bing; Mme. Bousset, as general understudy, playing the "The training with Miss Adams was

Rousset, Charles Dullin; Le a wonderful asset to me, but not until next season did I get my real New York opportunity. It was in the part of Hermia in 'A Midsummer Night' Dream,' with Annie Russell's company opening the new Astor Theatre. "Then followed six months of travel

abroad. Coming back, I was engaged for the lead in 'Paid in Full' on tour. Returning to New York I was engaged to play opposite William Farnum in Paul Armstrong's play, 'Society and the Bulldog,' which lasted only two weeks at Daly's. Then I originated Merk, the character secretary in 'The Concert,' with Mr. Ditritchstein at the Belasco Theatre. During this engagement I also understudied the two leads in 'The Concert' and the two the producers of "Turn to the Right" leads in 'The Concert' and the two and "Lightnin'," will present their leading roles of 'The Woman.' After third production, "Three Wise Fools," that I succeeded Prances Starr in The that I succeeded Frances Starr in The deep purpose. formerly known as "Three Wise Men," Easlest Way' on tour, followed by but never in my life has anything so tre, Ottawa, where I was starred. The got down under my skin as the deso-The play is a comedy in three acts next season 1 returned to 'The Con-Austin Stong, author of "A Good cert' to play the ingenue role of Flora

Belasco play, "The Love Charles Laite, Sam E. Hinea Harry in the

"Then came a wonderful part, on just suited me-that of an Italian girl in 'Depths of Purity,' at the Bramhall Playhouse. I got splendid notices, but it played only a week. That sum- look back on every experience now as

"Suddenly came the realization that

than almost any other actress, and that acting had proved a very remunerative profession as far as I was the stage of the Belasco Theatre, for concerned, I was comparatively little always-since his very early beyhood White Way forgets its favorites from Mr. Hobble's purpose and desire. my mind that for the time being I would not accept any more road jobs nc matter how brilliant and satisfactory the role, and that if possible I would also eschew understudy jobs. I told Mr. Tyler of my determination more would act Feuda in Tolston not to leave the city until I got a good "Redemption" at the Plymouth Thepart on Broadway, and asked him to give me anything to keep me busy that Mr. Barrymore and company until my opportunity came along. The very next day he sent a note by messenger, saying that I must not feel indignant at his proposal, but there Taylor's 'Out There' company, which was mine if I wanted it, and that Miss background he could assemble 400 Taylor also would be glad to have me understudy her role. It required a great struggle on my part to accept; after playing leads on Broadway the part seemed very small indeed. But ity over all, directing the domestic aided my theatrical aspirations. I it led to my opportunity—that is, my was Russia enough in New York to present part with Mr. Ditrichstein, put on a hundred plays, but that most when "The Woolng of Eye" was no. of the material immediately to band When 'The Wooling of Eve' was pro-duced Miss Taylor asked me to under-was either too shoddy for his aristostudy her again, and when Happi- cratic drawing rooms or too new and ness' was presented I had the part of too conventional for his gypsy haunts. Liberty Theatre.

Liberty Theatre.

John Cort's second musical offering of the season, "Gloriana," the book and lyrics of which are by Catherine and lyrics of large which are by Catherine and lyrics of large which are by Catherine and lyrics of which are by Catherine an quired.

## THE AUTHOR OF "DADDIES."

The daddy of "Daddles" came out of the West. He wouldn't speak thus and Mr. Jones asked if he would exof Kansas now, but in the days when change his old bench for a new one John L. Hobble was born in a little made by a fine carpenter, and painted sod house on the prairie it was all The Russian's smile faded and was refrontier country. Even now it is a far cry from the Belasco Theatre, where Mr. Hobble watches nightly the production of "Daddles," his first successful play. An alert, cheery chap, he slips in and out of the theatre with an absorbed interest in audiences and for gypsies to sit on. The Russian play al.ke, for it's all like a dream come true-this brilliant success for Jones explained all over again the comedy which he wrote with a ya moment the Russian beam-d "I am always interested in things,

cially for a number of 'war orphans' embroideries and extraordinary seemed to me but a drop in the bucket, brasses in the window, but the door All last winter I yearned to give a was locked and the shop was keep bigger help to the fatherless children erless. He went back on four or five of Europe. The idea of writing a play days until finally be found some on about them came to me many times. but it always seemed to my thought that it could only be done in a big serious drama, a form of play I did The startled little lady asked not consider myself capable of writing, where were his senses. He explains Then one day the idea of the who he was and for what he wanted Bachelor Club came to me. To band Russian treasures, and then and the together a group of misogynists for made an ally. Miss Fania Mindell the purpose of their protection whose trove he had invaded, had see against the wiles of women and ef- "Redemption" in Moscow, and anes fect their transformation from selfish the Russia Tolstot had written their exchelorhood to useful manhood She hauled out rare old shaw's bed through their adoption of war orphans spreads, all manner of brasses and afforded an outlet for both the serious pewter pieces, mirrors and such The purpose for the fatherless children she produced costumes. that I had in mind and presented as well a fallow field for comedy and a worry about costumes tremendous opportunity for an appealag love story. So I went to work to write the comedy with the dominating but better still she knew here purpose of making such an appeal to what had to be found the heart of America that bigger things would be done for the more than a million children in France who are looking to us for help." While "Daddies" is the first play of

John L. Hobble to see the light of production it is by no means his first attempt to express himself through this medium. According to his own story he has never wanted to do anything else. While herding cattle on the Kansas ranch he spent every available moment in studying the theatre and its art, coming to New York finally some nine years ago that he migh gain his knowledge of play construction closer to the theatrical fountain

"For nine years I wrote plays and

he informed the writer. "Producers invariably said that my comedy was good, but they always complained of some other fault." "That was a long time to have held

CARROLL MC COMAS NOT WITH MY MONEY

to your faith in your ability," was suggested to the playwright when be became silent.

"My faith never wavered." he an-"I never doubted that I should succeed. I just went on working, studying people and studying the construction of successful plays. dies,' and I have nothing of which to complain," he ended with a smile that relegated his hardship in getting his although I had played more parts in the start to a past that is swallowed up short time I have devoted to the stage in the satisfaction of having his first -this attainment has been the goal of

### RUSSIA FOUND IN NEW YORK

informed last spring that John Barry. atre some time in the autumn and would expect to find a production is which to act, at the appointed hour Mr. Jones set off to the four quarters of the city to see where best he could World and how distinctive a Russian

miles from home.

He went down on the East Side to weeks walking the streets and per

It made me rather blue to ing in the hero's descent to play such an old part, and I vowed and no place for a half way house. Mr. Jones says that in these I was really old myself. When the days of trudging he used to thank his all star cast of 'Out There' went on tour for the Red Cross drive I accompanied it as general understudy." It was an old bench dumped on the sidewalk before a shop in whose w dows burnished new samovars aske for als attention. He went to the de of the shop and asked for the proprietor. An elderly Russian came out

> "What you want bench about?" Mr. Jones explained that he was putting on a play in a theatre and that his scene needed just that bend shook his head and scowled.

placed by a vacant stare. This in the

"For pixtures?" he demanded and when the somewhat nonplused Mr. whether they directly affect me or not, Jones said yes he got the bend In still later quests Mr. Junes another piece of fortune. He for lated children of Europe," Mr. Hobble a shop explained to the writer, 'Caring finan- where there were exquisits hassi

> He rushed in impetuously and well "I want the contents of your short Now Mr. Jones hadn't b

seized his moment, Miss Mindell L. how to design what had to be

# Where the Plays Change.

At the Standard the interest "Hearts of the World" has been so great that it will be continued for another week.

William Rock and Frances White will be seen this week at the Shubert-Riviera in an one nal review of reviews. "Parlor, Bedroom and Bath" comes to Loew's Seventh Avenue

Theatre. Lenore Ulrich will be at the Bronx Opera House in "Tiget



